

Student Artists

Aliso Viejo Middle School Capistrano Unified School District

Ellie Brauer, Caroline Fabricius, Kenny Gen-Kuong, Erika Nassirinia, Jaxmin Rivas,
Gabby Yacobson

Bolsa Grande High School

Jasmine De Luna, Jessica Dinh, Cesar Flores, Ingrid Gonzalez, Martha Han, Tommy Hua,
Andy Huynh, Chang Woo Jung, Rachel Mai Le, Phuong Thi Le, Eduardo F. Nava, Anh
Duong Nguyen, Linda Thi Nguyen, William Rojas, Thanh Nhan Tran

Capistrano Valley High School Capistrano Unified School District

Rachel-Lyn Budai, Nick Fonseca, Kyle Fujihara, Jennifer Gurrola, Trevor Humphreys,
Sarah Kelly, Erien Osburn, Evan Sanchez, Kelvin Tran, Emily Yao

Garden Grove High School Garden Grove Unified School District Linda Lam, Andrienne Le

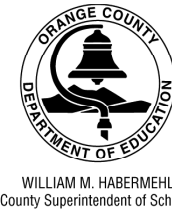
Joplin Youth Center and Los Pinos Conservation Camp ACCESS/Orange County Department of Education Nicole C., Pablo L., Antonio R., John S., David V., Jake W.

La Quinta High School Garden Grove Unified School District George Bernal, Fritz Bui, My Tran Dang, Alexa Ferguson, Phuong Pham and Viet To

Laguna Hills High School, Saddleback Unified School District Lauren Buys, Gisselle Cardoso, Christy Choi, Diana Hurtado, Alisha Mathur, Devon Abdo Maurice, Joseph Moon

Otto A. Fischer High School ACCESS/Orange County Department of Education Christian B., Jose C., Jade F., Kaylee F., Juan G., Andrew K., Daniel R., Stacylynn R., Abraham V., Kelvin W. Lexxter W.

ART AND JUSTICE



On behalf of the California judicial branch, and especially everyone at the Court of Appeal, Fourth Appellate District, Division Three, we would like to express our sincere appreciation to Mr. William B. Habermehl, Orange County Superintendent of Schools who worked alongside The Honorable Eileen C. Moore, Associate Justice at this court for having the vision and fortitude to tackle an unprecedented partnership for the benefit of area school kids and the new courthouse.

Their effort, coupled with the hands-on leadership and dedication of Ms. Ruth Rosen and her inspired student artists from several schools across the county, is a fine example of doing wonderful things in very difficult times. It would have been quite easy for the leadership and key players to be discouraged by the complexity of this program considering the realities of serious resource depletion in both institutions.

The collaborative efforts of students, teachers and administrators with the Orange County Department of Education and the Court resulted in the wonderful collection of poignant artistic portrayals of court opinions. The works which were donated to the Court and are now on display in the lobby of the Court of Appeal. William Habermehl, Superintendent of Schools, comments, "This is a great opportunity to combine efforts. Everyone involved learned a great deal about what the others do on a daily basis. In particular, the student artists used high level critical thinking skills to learn about civics and the law. It was a great project that we will be proud of for years to come."

The completion of this new courthouse marks a major milestone in the California judicial branch's ongoing commitment to provide the highest quality of justice and service to the public. The art gracing our lobby walls reflects the highest sense of outreach and collaboration with our community.



Colleene Preciado, Chief Probation Officer: *“That is a brand new partnership for us and it’s frankly very incredible and very exciting. A lot of these kids have been graffiti artists. We try to tell them why that doesn’t make sense, why putting their art on paper and canvas where it can be shown to others can be a good thing and not a destructive thing.”*

A fifteen-year-old student at Otto A. Fischer High School: *“Honestly I think it was because this is my opportunity. My work is going to be in the courthouse. It’s going to be there for years. That’s pretty exciting. My family’s really proud of me. I told my mom yesterday and she’s like: ‘Really? I’m going to tell grandma and grandpa.’ She’s really proud of me. I’m getting out in a couple of weeks and I’m planning on staying out. I’m going to be good.”*

Justice Eileen C. Moore commented about the centerpiece, an eight-foot by six-foot oil painting of the 1947 case of *Mendez v. Westminster School District*, involving children of Mexican descent who were denied admission to schools reserved for “white” students, and sometimes called “California’s *Brown v. Board of Education* case,”: *“It’s such an integral part of Orange County history, and I have this fear that people forget history, and it’s important for us to know what we did here in Orange County.”* About the whole project, Justice Moore said: *“Not only is the court going to have art, but more importantly the kids are learning along the way about the court system and about what happens inside and the real people that are involved in cases in the court system.”*

Even after the art was installed and the project ended, the court’s involvement continues. Justice Moore spoke at the graduation of a student artist from Otto A. Fischer High School on November 19, 2009 about his vital contribution to the *Mendez* painting. The young man confidently told the audience he had been accepted into college and would start shortly after his release from Juvenile Hall.

The following excerpts were taken from the California Court News production of October 5, 2009:

Ellie Brauer, student at Aliso Middle School: *“So we got to learn about a lot of different court cases and how complicated they are and everything. It was very interesting . . . you have to decide and work together. Otherwise you’ll have a bad result. It’s just exciting . . . it’s something important that I got to do, you know? A piece of us gets to go in the courthouse. Yeah!”*

Lauren Buys, student at Laguna Hills High School: *“It’s hard because we’re used to doing art the way we want. So, we kind of learned to listen and interpret and just do what other people wanted for a change which is hard but, of course, you’ve got to learn to be able to do it. This is something that we’re really doing here, and we are making a difference so it’s a great thing to be able to do that.”*

Fritzi Bui, student at LaQuinta High School: *“Compromise. It’s good for future uses.”*

Ruth Rosen, Orange County Department of Education teacher and project coordinator: *“Problem solving. Critical thinking. I don’t think it gets better than that. The work that I get from these kids is above and beyond anything that you’ve ever seen. The cost on this is minimal. It’s canvases and paint.”*

Perhaps the most remarkable aspect of this project is that Otto A. Fischer High School, the high school in Juvenile Hall, has been part of our community venture, thanks to the Orange County Department of Probation.

